

NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub – Project 10.1 Factsheet

SELTMP 2013: Commercial Fishing in the Great Barrier Reef – a case study

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Report summary

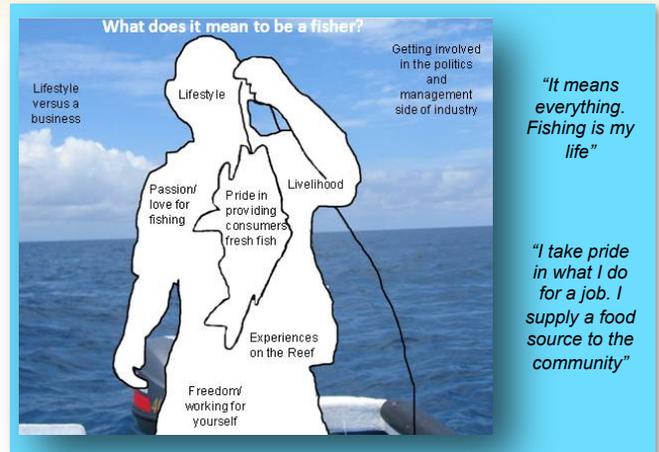
“SELTMP 2013: Commercial fishing in the Great Barrier Reef – a case study” is part of a series of technical reports from the *Social and Economic Long Term Monitoring Program* (SELTMP; NERP Project 10.1) for the GBR region. This report focuses on a case study that was carried out with a small group (14) of commercial fishers living in the GBR. The report presents preliminary analyses of five questions asked during the interviews relating to fishers' social and economic relationship with the GBR, drivers of change, and impact on their wellbeing and that of the commercial fishing industry.

Why a case study

The 2013 SELTMP surveys of 211 commercial fishers in the GBR¹ produced valuable quantitative data. Case studies involve the collection of qualitative data and, as such, are a useful tool for complementing surveys. Commercial fishers were selected as the first group to monitor with both survey-based and case study-based monitoring approaches. Face-to-face in-depth interviews provided fishers an opportunity to share their experiences, knowledge and points of view. This information will assist Reef managers, industry peak organisations, and other stakeholders make more effective and transparent decisions about access to and use of the Reef.

Key preliminary findings

- Social and economic relationship with the Reef
 - Fishers interviewed had different perspectives about the Reef and what is important but also shared some views
 - Their sense of identity is closely intertwined with what they experience, do and get (economic and non-economic benefits) from the Reef
- Drivers of change and wellbeing
 - Among drivers they identified as having the greatest impact were:
 - Politics/management: e.g. zoning, fisheries management plans, port development
 - Social and cultural: negative public image of commercial fishers; diverse and “fragmented” community of fishers
 - Media: negative coverage of commercial fishers
 - Demographic: population growth, increase in rec fishers, lack of younger generation of commercial fishers
 - Economic: globalisation, importation of seafood, aquaculture
 - Biophysical: cyclones



Outcomes

- Results from SELTMP 2013 have assisted the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority with their preparation of the 2014 Outlook Report and the Strategic Assessment of the GBRWHA.
- Consultation with commercial fishers involved in the case study is continuing through 2014 to ensure findings are accurate and useful.

¹ Tobin, R., Bohensky, E., Curnock, M., Goldberg, J., Gooch, M., Marshall, N., Nicotra, B., Pert, P., Scherl, L., and Stone-Jovicich, S. (in press). *SELTMP 2013: Commercial fishing in the Great Barrier Reef*. Technical Report for NERP Project 10.1.

² Stone-Jovicich, S., Marshall, N., Bohensky, E., Curnock, M., Goldberg, J., Gooch, M., Pert, P., Scherl, L., and Tobin, R. (in press). *SELTMP 2013: Commercial fishing in the Great Barrier Reef – a case study*. Technical Report for NERP Project 10.1.

Find this project at www.nerptropical.edu.au
Theme 3: Managing for resilient tropical ecosystems
Program 10: Socio-economic value of GBR goods and services
Project: 10.1 Social and economic long-term monitoring program

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